

**MEDIA UPDATE:** Jan. 12

*If links are broken in the body of the email, please see the attached pdf for links.*

—HEADLINES— *Scroll down for full stories and links.*

***Coverage for armed protests and National Guard mobilization***

**| Alaska News of Interest |**

1. Media stokes fear with report that armed protests occurring at state capitals
2. Dimond Center in Anchorage to close Sunday in response to planned 'armed protest'
3. After FBI warning, heightened security at Alaska's state Capitol
4. FBI, police investigate 'suspicious vehicle' at Anchorage Midtown Mall

*70 broadcast stories*

*342 social media mentions*

**| Nation/National Guard News of Interest |**

5. Armed protests being planned at all 50 state capitols, FBI bulletin says
6. FBI internal memo warns of plans for armed protests in all 50 state capitals around day of Biden inauguration
7. FBI warns of armed protests targeting state courthouses and D.C.

*2,980 broadcast stories*

*3,530 social media mentions*

**—ALASKA NEWS OF INTEREST—**

**1. Media stokes fear with report that armed protests occurring at state capitals**

*Must Read Alaska by Suzanne Downing/Jan. 11*

Using unnamed sources, all mainstream media is reporting the same thing, that the FBI is warning of plans for armed protests at all 50 state capitals and in Washington in the days leading up to President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration.

The media, led by ABC News, says that this is "stoking fears of more bloodshed after last week's deadly siege at the U.S. Capitol."

The warning came in what is said an internal FBI memo, read by law enforcement officials to ABC News. The law enforcement officials believe that extremists are involved.

"Armed protests are being planned at all 50 state capitols from 16 January through at least 20 January, and at the U.S. Capitol from 17 January through 20 January," the bulletin reportedly said, according to one official.

The response from several Alaskans has been a sense of incredulity and that the mainstream media is ginning up panic.

A majority of Alaskans are armed and have their firearms on them during the normal course of their business. If they went to a protest, it would not be a different situation than going to the grocery or out on the trail.

Further, to go to Alaska's Capital, protesters would have to fly to Juneau, and in doing so, would have to alert Alaska Airlines that they were shipping their firearms.

Juneau is the most isolated state capital in the nation.

However, Oregon State Police were preparing for protests at the Capitol in Salem Monday and 750 National Guard members are assigned to protect the Capitol building in Olympia, Wash., joined by local law enforcement.

Washington's Legislature were meeting on Monday to change the rules so legislators can be fully remote for the 105-day session.

Back in 2018, Democrat protesters went to Wasilla, Alaska and occupied the legal proceedings of the Legislature, including taking over legislators' chairs, where they were set up in a gymnasium. They also chained themselves to the doors, as shown in photos above and yelled at legislators, preventing them from conducting business, and generally creating an unsafe building.

Today, The Washington Post reported that the radio station that hosts conservative talk shows such as Mark Levin, Ben Shapiro, and Dan Bongino, has ordered the hosts to stop saying the election was stolen or they will have their shows cancelled.

Link: <https://mustreadalaska.com/media-stokes-fears-with-report-that-armed-protests-occurring-at-state-capitals/>

## **2. Dimond Center in Anchorage to close Sunday in response to planned 'armed protest'**

*Alaska Public Media by Lex Treinen/Jan. 11*

The Dimond Center in Anchorage will close down Sunday, Jan. 17, after mall staff learned that an armed rally was being planned at its address.

An online flyer circulating on far-right social media accounts listed the Dimond Center as the Alaska site of a nationwide "armed march on Capitol Hill and all state capitols." The rally is called "Refuse to be Silenced."

The FBI is warning of armed protests planned across the country ahead of President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration on Jan. 20.

Dimond Center Manager Bob Dye says he did not give any approval for a demonstration at the Anchorage shopping center. The Dimond Center sent out a news release on Monday to reporters, underscoring that the event will not be allowed on its property.

"I received word of this armed protest over the weekend from a concerned citizen," Dye said in a phone interview Monday. "So first, thanks to her."

After pro-Trump rioters stormed the U.S. Capitol last Wednesday, Dye said he determined that the upcoming rally posed a "credible threat."

He said he didn't want to make a political statement with the closure of the building and the surrounding parking lots. But, he said, the Dimond Center is a private, family-owned business, and "is not an appropriate venue for an event such as this."

"We're private property, and we will not allow the events to take place on our property as is our right," he said.

He said he's been in contact with the FBI and Anchorage Police Department. Those law enforcement agencies could not be immediately reached for comment on Monday, and have not confirmed their involvement with an investigation.

The flyer doesn't list an organizer for the rally, which coincides with the last Sunday of Donald Trump's presidency.

Link: <https://www.alaskapublic.org/2021/01/11/dimond-center-to-close-sunday-in-response-to-planned-armed-protest/>

### **3. After FBI warning, heightened security at Alaska's state Capitol**

*Alaska Daily News by James Brooks/Jan. 11*

Additional Alaska State Troopers and police will be stationed at the Alaska State Capitol after the FBI warned local officials about the possibility of armed protests at state capitols and in Washington, D.C., before President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration.

The 32nd Alaska Legislature convenes Jan. 19, and the inauguration is the following day.

On Monday, the Alaska Capitol's chief security officer sent an email to all legislators and staff, saying the Capitol's security officers "are in contact (with the) FBI, State Troopers Intel Center, local Troopers, JPD and the Alaska National Guard, and are working to increase Security's presence at the Capitol."

He requested that anyone with information about a specific threat contact the security office.

Some legislative employees shared copies of an unattributed flyer calling for armed rallies on Jan. 17. In Anchorage, the Dimond Center mall, listed as the site of a possible rally, announced it would shut down for the day.

Jessica Geary, executive director of the agency that administers the Capitol and the state's legislative information offices, said she isn't aware of any specific events at the state Capitol.

"We are closely monitoring and if an event is planned, I think word travels pretty fast. So we'll find out about it. And we'll just respond accordingly," she said.

"We've definitely just seen what happened in our nation's capital. We just feel like we can't be too over-prepared. Yeah, it's definitely a little bit scary," Geary said.

Over the past year, some protesters have carried firearms openly into state capitols. In response to both the attack on the U.S. Capitol and the alleged kidnapping plot against Michigan's governor, some states have banned firearms from their capitols. Alaska already forbids both open carrying and concealed carrying in the state Capitol.

The FBI's Anchorage public affairs officer, Chloe Martin, said her agency is working with Alaskans.

"While our standard practice is to not comment on specific intelligence products, the FBI is supporting our state, local, and federal law enforcement partners with maintaining public safety in the communities we serve," she said.

She said the FBI's focus is "on those threatening their safety and the safety of other citizens with violence and destruction of property."

Lt. Krag Campbell of the Juneau Police Department said the department will have a larger-than-normal presence when the Legislature convenes Jan. 19.

“We don’t have any ... talk about anything happening here, but we are planning accordingly,” he said.

Megan Peters, a spokeswoman for the Alaska Department of Public Safety, said the state agency is able to respond to either Anchorage or Juneau if needed.

“We will have some state trooper presence at the Capitol. So we’re just kind of working every avenue that we that we can to make sure that we’re as secure as possible,” Geary said.

“We’re closely working with other law enforcement agencies to monitor you know, any threats posted to social media or if any members are receiving them,” she said.

**Link:** <https://www.adn.com/politics/alaska-legislature/2021/01/12/after-fbi-warning-heightened-security-at-alaskas-state-capitol/>

#### **4. FBI, police investigate ‘suspicious vehicle’ at Anchorage Midtown Mall**

*Alaska Public Media by Kavitha George/Jan. 11*

*UPDATE 5:47 p.m.:*

FBI spokeswoman Chloe Martin said the law enforcement activity on Monday was in response to reports of an individual who made threats against nearby federal buildings. “A threat assessment was conducted on the individual’s vehicle, which has now been cleared and determined to be a non-threat,” Martin wrote in an email.

*UPDATE 5:05 p.m.:*

All the roads around Anchorage Midtown Mall are reopened, though traffic delays will continue, police said in a statement shortly after 5 p.m. Monday.

Police said “nothing suspicious was found.” Part of the mall parking lot, however, will remain closed as the investigation continues.

*Original story:*

Reports of a suspicious vehicle at Anchorage’s Midtown Mall prompted police and the FBI to shut down all of the major streets surrounding the mall, which include some of the busiest thoroughfares in Alaska’s largest city.

Police announced the closures of Northern Lights and Benson boulevards between Latouche and Denali streets, and the New Seward Highway between 36th Avenue and Fireweed Lane, in a written statement about 12:30 p.m. and said traffic detours would continue for several hours.

Smaller connecting side streets and access to surrounding businesses have also been blocked off.

An employee at a store in the mall, who asked not to be named out of safety concerns, said a male customer told her around 11:20 a.m. that there was a bomb at the mall.

“He asked me if I knew about what was happening ... and I said ‘No’ and he’s like, ‘there’s a bomb that’s gonna explode.’” At first, the employee said she thought he was joking but “he looked straight at me and he was like ‘It’s not a joke, it’s serious.’”

The employee called her manager, who called mall security. Mall security arrived at the store shortly after, the woman said.

"I guess they talked to him because I was on the phone already with the police," she said. "And then when I came back from the phone call, he was already gone."

Two employees of the nearby Carrs grocery store, who had been evacuated, also said they'd heard reports of a bomb threat. FBI spokeswoman Chloe Martin would neither confirm nor deny reports of a bomb threat.

As Federal Protective Services and Anchorage police officers directed traffic away from the area about 2:30 p.m., Martin said there was no immediate threat to public safety.

Martin would only say that the law enforcement officers were conducting a "threat assessment." Two officers appeared to be operating a remote-controlled robot.

Link: <https://www.alaskapublic.org/2021/01/11/fbi-police-investigate-suspicious-vehicle-at-midtown-mall/>

#### —NATION/NATIONAL GUARD NEWS OF INTEREST—

##### **5. Armed protests being planned at all 50 state capitols, FBI bulletin says**

*ABC News by Aaron Katersky & Celia Darrough/Jan. 11*

Starting this week and running through at least Inauguration Day, armed protests are being planned at all 50 state capitols and at the U.S. Capitol, according to an internal FBI bulletin obtained by ABC News.

The FBI has also received information in recent days on a group calling for "storming" state, local and federal government courthouses and administrative buildings in the event President Donald Trump is removed from office prior to Inauguration Day. The group is also planning to "storm" government offices in every state the day President-elect Joe Biden will be inaugurated, regardless of whether the states certified electoral votes for Biden or Trump.

"The FBI received information about an identified armed group intending to travel to Washington, DC on 16 January," the bulletin read. "They have warned that if Congress attempts to remove POTUS via the 25th Amendment, a huge uprising will occur."

Federal law enforcement officials have advised police agencies to increase their security posture at statehouses around the country following the riot at the U.S. Capitol, law enforcement sources told ABC News.

Following the violent pro-Trump breach of the U.S. Capitol last Wednesday, Democratic lawmakers in the House of Representatives pushed forward Monday with an effort to get Vice President Mike Pence and the Cabinet to invoke the 25th Amendment, which would declare Trump incapable of performing his presidential duties and would install Pence as acting president until Biden is inaugurated Jan. 20.

The effort was ultimately blocked by Republican Rep. Alex Mooney of West Virginia, and House Democrats then introduced an article of impeachment against Trump for "incitement of insurrection."

The measure, which has more than 200 Democratic co-sponsors, states Trump has "demonstrated that he will remain a threat to national security, democracy and the Constitution if allowed to remain in office and has acted in a manner grossly incompatible with self-governance and the rule of law."

According to the FBI, approximately 29 individuals and/or social media accounts of individuals who unlawfully entered the Capitol had been identified as of Sunday.

The FBI has received nearly 45,000 digital media tips that are now being reviewed.

At least five people died during the siege on the Capitol, including Capitol Police officer Brian Sicknick. The FBI bulletin said Sicknick "died from injuries sustained during the U.S. Capitol breach."

Link: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/armed-protests-planned-50-state-capitols-fbi-bulletin/story?id=75179771>

## **6. FBI internal memo warns of plans for armed protests in all 50 state capitals around day of Biden inauguration**

*Fox News by Brooke Singman, David Spunt/Jan. 11*

An internal FBI memo is warning of plans for armed protests in all 50 state capital cities ahead of President-elect Joe Biden's Inauguration, Fox News has learned.

A federal law enforcement source told Fox News that an internal bureau memo is warning that the protests could be staged before, on, and after Inauguration Day.

In a statement to Fox News, the FBI said that they do not comment on "specific intelligence products," but said that the FBI "is supporting our state, local, and federal law enforcement partners with maintaining public safety in the communities we serve."

"Our efforts are focused on identifying, investigating, and disrupting individuals that are inciting violence and engaging in criminal activity," the FBI said. "As we do in the normal course of business, we are gathering information to identify any potential threats and are sharing that information with our partners. The FBI respects the rights of individuals to peacefully exercise their First Amendment rights."

The FBI added: "Our focus is not on peaceful protesters, but on those threatening their safety and the safety of other citizens with violence and destruction of property."

The memo comes as Fox News has learned the FBI has received more than "40,000 digital media tips, including video and photos, from the public" regarding participants in last week's Capitol riot.

Sources told Fox News on Sunday that the FBI visited extremists prior to the Jan. 6 pro-Trump rally and Capitol riot, urging them not to travel to Washington D.C.

It is unclear, at this point, how many extremists were contacted and how far in advance of Jan. 6.

Pro-Trump protesters stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, sending Congress into recess and the Capitol building into lockdown as members attempted to certify the results of the presidential election in favor of President-elect Joe Biden.

The president spoke earlier in the day in Washington at a rally to supporters, who later marched to the Capitol. He further pressured Vice President Mike Pence to act on his own to decertify the results of the election and send them back to the states for recertification.

Pence, before the joint session of Congress began, said he did not believe, under the Constitution, that he had the authority to "unilaterally" accept or reject electoral votes.

As members of the House and Senate debated and raised objections to certain electoral votes, both chambers were forced to recess and evacuate their chambers as protesters stormed the Capitol, sending it into lockdown for hours.

Washington police said the riot at the Capitol resulted in five deaths -- including a Capitol Police officer and a woman who was shot inside the building -- and at least 70 arrests.

The Justice Department has charged more than a dozen people involved in the riots, and dozens more have been charged in Superior Court in Washington D.C. with unlawful entry, curfew violations, and firearms-related crimes.

Last month, President Trump promised supporters a "wild" protest in D.C. on Jan. 6.

NBC News first reported that the FBI visited extremists planning to attend the pro-Trump rallies that the FBI warned Capitol Police of potential violence that day.

Despite warnings about pro-Trump demonstrations in Washington, Capitol Police did not plan to bolster staffing and did not anticipate that the demonstration would escalate into a massive violent riot, according to people briefed on law enforcement's response.

The Capitol Police response has drawn condemnation from lawmakers and prompted the ouster of the department's chief and the sergeants-at-arms of both the House and Senate.

Meanwhile, now former-U.S. Capitol Police chief Steven Sund reportedly asked his supervisors ahead of time for permission to request that the D.C. National Guard be on standby if the situation spiraled out of control, but was denied.

**Link:** <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fbi-internal-memo-warns-of-plans-for-armed-protests-in-all-50-state-capitals-ahead-of-biden-inauguration>

## **7. FBI warns of armed protests targeting state courthouses and D.C.**

*CBS News by Pat Milton & Graham Kates/Jan. 11*

The FBI is warning law enforcement across the country that groups are calling for the "storming" of federal, state and local courthouses in all 50 states if President Trump is removed from office prior to Inauguration Day on January 20, a law enforcement source told CBS News.

The groups are calling for participants to come armed at their own discretion, according to the FBI's alert, which also said that there are reports of non-specified threats being made against President-elect Joe Biden, Vice President-elect Kamala Harris and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

The alert comes as law enforcement across the country scrambles to assess whether a violent incursion into the Capitol building by supporters of Mr. Trump on January 6 could lead to further violence before Mr.

Biden's inauguration. The attack on the Capitol left five dead, including a police officer. Another Capitol police officer committed suicide on Saturday.

The possibility of violence on January 17, in particular, had already caught the attention of Twitter. The social media giant cited "a proposed secondary attack" on the U.S. Capitol and state capitol buildings on that day in its January 8 announcement that it was permanently suspending Mr. Trump's account.

One flyer that briefly appeared on various social media sites called for an armed march from the "Washington Memorial to the White House (and all 50 state capitols)."

"Come armed at your personal discretion," the flyer read.

The National Park Service announced Monday that it is closing the Washington Monument through January 24 in response to "credible threats" stemming from the deadly riot at the Capitol.

"Groups involved in the January 6, 2021 riots at the U.S. Capitol continue to threaten to disrupt the 59th presidential inauguration on January 20, 2021," the National Park Service said in a statement.

The agency may also institute temporary closures to many National Mall public facilities and roadways, it said.

As part of the government's effort to respond to the January 6 attack, the Transportation Security Administration is also detailing additional federal Air Marshals to flights into and out of the Capitol region, a source tells CBS News.

**Link:** <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-supporters-armed-protests-fbi/>

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